



# FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and  
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business  
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 433—District of Columbia Management Restoration Act**

**H.R. 169—Amending the Packers and Stockyards Act**

**H.R. 440—Microloan Program Technical Corrections Act**

**H.R. 439—Paperwork Elimination Act**

**H.R. 435—Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act**

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## **Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following five bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.R. 433—District of Columbia Management Restoration Act** ratifies a Memorandum of Agreement between the District of Columbia Financial Control Board and the new mayor signed on January 2, 1999, that transfers authority over nine key municipal departments from the Control Board back to the mayor. These include such agencies as the Public Health Department, Department of Employment Services, and Department of Public Works. The bill does not alter the time period or conditions for the Control Board to intervene in a crisis situation. The bill restores powers to the mayor that were removed by the D.C. Revitalization Act of 1997. The bill was introduced by Mr. Davis and was reported by the Government Reform Committee by voice vote on February 3, 1999.

**H.R. 169—Amending the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921** expands the pilot investigation included in last year's omnibus appropriations bill to investigate prices paid for live lamb, cattle, and cuts of meat. The amendment requires investigators to collect information regarding prices paid for swine for immediate slaughter as well as for muscle cuts of swine. Finally, the bill requires

the Agriculture Secretary to report to Congress on the effectiveness of the investigation. The bill was introduced by Mr. Latham and was not considered by a committee.

**H.R. 440—Microloan Program Technical Corrections Act** amends the Small Business Act to require (1) the Small Business Administration (SBA) to maintain at least \$800,000 of new loan funds for each state's microloan intermediaries in any fiscal year, and (2) all intermediaries to have a 15 percent loan loss reserve after their first five years of participation in the microloan program, after which time they may request a review by the SBA. If the intermediaries' five-year loss rate is lower than 15 percent, then the SBA may reduce the loss reserve requirement to as low as 10 percent. The bill was introduced by Mr. Talent and was reported by the Small Business Committee by voice vote on February 3, 1999.

**H.R. 439—Paperwork Elimination Act** amends the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (*P.L. 104-13*) to require the federal government, when it collects information from the public, to provide the option of transmitting that information electronically. In addition, the bill requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to ensure that all federal agencies make necessary changes to facilitate electronic communications. H.R. 439 requires the OMB to provide regular reports on the progress of federal agency efforts to establish electronic facilities. The bill intends to advance the use of non-paper-dependent information technologies, thereby decreasing the burden of paperwork demands by the federal government. The bill is particularly directed toward small businesses, educational and non-profit organizations, individuals, federal contractors, state and local governments, and others who must comply with government paperwork mandates, such as filing employment or tax forms.

The House passed an identical version of the Paperwork Elimination Act last session (H.R. 852) but it was not enacted into law before the end of session. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 439 will have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill does not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. The bill was introduced by Mr. Talent and was reported by the Small Business Committee by voice vote on February 3, 1999.

**H.R. 435—Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act** makes numerous minor and technical changes to a variety of current trade and customs law provisions, as well as a number of duty suspensions and tariff reductions. Specifically, the measure temporarily suspends duties imposed for certain imported pharmaceutical products used to develop HIV/AIDS and cancer drugs. In addition, the bill includes numerous trade provisions, including measures to (1) extend permanent normal trade relations status to Mongolia; (2) provide duty-free treatment to all participants and individuals associated with the 1999 Special Olympics, the 1999 Women's World Cup, the 2001 International Special Olympics, the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, and the 2002 Winter Para-Olympics; and (3) enhance passenger services on cruise ships entering U.S. territorial waters. A preliminary CBO review of duty suspension provisions contained in H.R. 435 estimates that enactment will decrease government revenues by \$23 million in FY 1999 and by \$69 million over the FY 1999-2003 period. The bill was introduced by Messrs. Archer, Crane, Rangel, and Levin and was not considered by a House committee.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #3, February 5, 1999.

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